

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 200856Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USICA WASHDC
DA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 0436
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
FT HOOD TEXAS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN
INFO CDR BREMERHAVEN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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USICA

USICA FOR EU, PGM/F; DA FOR MAJ.KELLER, POC;
USNATO FOR MR. ENGEL; USAREUR FOR COL.STEVENS,
CAPT.HAVACH AEAPA-CR; USEUCOM FOR CAPT.GARROW;
USAFE FOR COL.HICKMAN; CDR BREMERHAVEN PLS PASS
TO USFLO

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA TREATMENT OF NORTHAG JOURNALIST VISIT

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE EIGHT-MAN NORTHAG JOURNALIST
VISIT TO NATO/BRUSSELS, SHAPE, FORT HOOD, DOD, STATE
DEPARTMENT, AND ICA CONTINUES TO POUR INTO POST.
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THE JOURNALISTS, SELECTED FROM THE GARLSTEDT AREA,
CONCLUDED A 10-DAY VISIT ON JUNE 18. ON JUNE 22,
HORST SIEBERT, DPA (GERMAN WIRE SERVICE) CORRESPONDENT
WHO MADE NORTHAG TRIP, FILED LENGTHY ARTICLE WHICH WAS
PICKED UP BY THE "FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE", THE
"CELLESCHER ZEITUNG" (NORTHERN GERMANY) AND THE
"HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT".

2. USING THE GARLSTEDT/FORT HOOD DATELINE, SIEBERT'S ARTICLE EXPLAINED THE REASON FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE NEW BRIGADE INTO NORTHERN GERMANY. ACCORDING TO SIEBERT, THE U.S. WILL "DEMONSTRATE IN PEACETIME IT'S READINESS WITH NATO ALLIES TO TURN BACK ANY POSSIBLE AGGRESSOR IN THE NORTHERN GERMAN LOWLANDS." SIEBERT SAYS, "IN THE COURSE OF RELOCATING THE BRIGADE, THE U.S. WILL BUILD UP LOGISTIC STOCKS AROUND GARLSTEDT SUFFICIENT TO SUPPLY THREE AMERICAN DIVISIONS. SOME 4,000 SOLDIERS, COMMISSIONED AND NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS, LOCATED NOW IN FORT HOOD, WILL BE STATIONED IN THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BARRACKS AT GARLSTEDT." HE CONTINUED, "THEY WILL BE JOINED BY DEPENDENTS WHO ARE TO LIVE IN SOME 1,000 APARTMENTS."

3. SIEBERT EXPLAINS FURTHER HOW THE NEW BRIGADE WILL BE MOVED FROM FORT HOOD AND SOUTHERN GERMANY, THE METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION FOR WEAPONS, VEHICLES, ETC. THE "FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE" PIECE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A TWO-COLUMN PHOTOGRAPH OF A M-109 TANK.

4. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE NORTHAG JOURNALIST GROUP, GABRIELE CHWALLEK, CORRESPONDENT FOR THE LOCAL "TAGESPOST" FROM OSNABRUECK, FILED A FULL-PAGE ARTICLE UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS. CHWALLEK WENT INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE BRIGADE AND EXPLAINED SOME OF THE ACTIVITY NOW GOING ON AT FORT HOOD TO PREPARE THE TROOPS FOR THEIR JOURNEY TO GERMANY. SHE DESCRIBED THE HOUSING AT GARLSTEDT, AND QUOTED MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES P. GRAHAM, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND ARMORED DIVISION AT FORT HOOD, WHO SAID, "WE DON'T WANT ANY GHETTOS" IN THE NORTHAG AREA. ACCORDING TO CHWALLEK, "EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAS BEEN DONE TO PREVENT THE ISOLATION OF U.S. SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. MANY CITIZENS OF THE AREA HAVE ALREADY VOLUNTEERED TO HOST GI'S AND DEPENDENTS." SHE ALSO DISCUSSES THE GERMAN CLASSES FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS AS WELL AS THE INDOCTRINATION OF THE BRIGADE--THE REASONS FOR BEING SENT TO NORTHERN GERMANY. THE PRESENCE OF U.S. ARMY TROOPS, SHE SAYS, IS TO "STRENGTHEN THE NATO CAPABILITIES AND TO BEGIN THE DEFENSE FROM A FORWARD POSITION."

5. ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE OF GENERAL GRAHAM, TANK OPERATIONS AT FORT HOOD, THE BRIGADE'S SHOULDER PATCH (HELL ON WHEELS), A GERMAN LANGUAGE CLASS, AND A FORT HOOD COOK READY TO OPEN A CAN OF SAUERKRAUT--NO

DOUBT TO GET THE TROOPS ACCUSTOMED TO THE NEW CUISINE.
ALL PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY WILLY PILZECKER WHO MADE THE
NORTHAG JOURNALIST TOUR.

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R 200856Z JUL 78
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DA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 0437
SECDEF WASHDC
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T HOOD TEXAS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN
IFO RUFTREA/CDR BREMERHAVEN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
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6. A FULL-PAGE OF THE "NORTHWEST-ZEITUNG/OLDENBURG
NACHRICHTEN" WAS DEDICATED JUNE 24 TO BRIGADE 75 UNDER
THE HEADLINE, "FROM HOT TEXAS TO THE WESER." SEVEN
PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANIED THE ARTICLE. OTTO EHLERS,
A MEMBER OF THE NORTHAG JOURNALIST VISIT, WROTE THE
PIECE AND TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS. JENS GUNDLACH, ANOTHER
PARTICIPANT, STATED IN A THREE-COLUMN STORY ON JUNE 27
THAT THE 4,000 GIS BEING SENT TO NORTHERN GERMANY WILL
"STOP THE ENEMY ATTACK." HE GOES ON TO SAY, "BOTH THE
BRUSSELS NATO HEADQUARTERS (SHAPE) UNDER THE COMMAND
OF GENERAL HAIG AND THE PENTAGON ARE TRYING TO DISPEL
THE WORRIES OF GERMAN SKEPTICS BY THE MAGIC WORDS--

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BRIGADE 75."

7. DIETRICH MUELLER'S STORY IN THE "NORDSEE-ZEITUNG", BREMERHAVEN, ON JUNE 24 FILLED AN ENTIRE PAGE WITH THREE PHOTOS. THE HEADLINE READ: "ROAD TO THE WEST PLUGGED." ON JULY 1 MUELLER HAD ANOTHER 3/4-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER. THE TWO-COLUMN HEADLINE CLAIMED, "MANY VOLUNTEERS FOR DUTY IN GARLSTEDT." THREE PHOTOS ACCOMPANIED MUELLER'S PIECE. ON JULY 8 HIS THIRD ARTICLE APPEARED. IN THE LEAD HE SAID THAT INFORMATION ON THE MOVE TO NORTHERN GERMANY COULD BE HAD ON A 24-HOURS BASIS AT FORT HOOD. HE CLAIMED AS MANY AS "100 TELEPHONE CALLS WERE RECEIVED DAILY" AT BRIGADE 75 HEADQUARTERS.

8. NOT ONLY WAS THERE EXTENSIVE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE BY THE NORTHAG JOURNALISTS, BUT RADIO BREMEN ALSO PRESENTED FOUR PROGRAMS AND PLAN MORE. THE TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH A FORMER GERMAN CITIZEN WHO WILL BE STATIONED IN GARLSTEDT. COLONEL STORBECK OF THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED AS WELL AS THE GERMAN CLASSES AT FORT HOOD AND COLONEL BORGMAN OF BRIGADE 75.

9. BEFORE LEAVING FOR BRUSSELS WHERE THE NORTHAG VISIT BEGAN, COPIES OF AMERIKA DIENST AND NATO DOCUMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS BY ESCORTS JAMES CRANE/ICA BONN AND U.S. FORCES LIAISON OFFICER FOR NORTHERN GERMANY, MICHAEL HANPETER. AT SHAPE AND THE PENTAGON MATERIALS WERE DISTRIBUTED EXPLAINING THE ORGANIZATION AND MISSION OF BRIGADE 75 AS WELL AS THE NATURE OF THE THREAT TO GERMANY. THE JOURNALISTS WERE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE BRIEFING BY GENERAL HAIG AND THE

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AUTHORITIES AT FORT HOOD. THE GIS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN TEXAS ALSO CAME IN FOR UNUSUAL PRAISE BY THE NORTHAG GROUP.

10. BRIEFINGS BY THE U.S. AND GERMAN DELEGATIONS IN BRUSSELS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN WASHINGTON, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED IMPORTANT DETAILS TO THE JOURNALISTS FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE PUBLIC. A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, A NEWS BRIEFING AT THE DOD, AND

LUNCHEON AT THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB PROVIDED A FITTING
CLIMAX TO WHAT CAN BE CALLED THE FINEST PUBLIC RELATIONS
PROGRAM COMING OUT OF ICA/GERMANY IN YEARS.
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Disposition Comment:
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TAGS: SOPN, OTRA, GE
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